

# REMEMBERING SHIRLEY FRANSEN-TINNER

## Midsummer Festival stalwart

Shirley was born to Frans & Hija (Eskola) Fransen, Finnish immigrants, in Astoria and grew up in Uniontown.

She learned to speak the Finnish language at an early age (which she enjoyed speaking into adulthood), and was educated in the Astoria school system. She was full of pride to be an "Astorian."

Shirley was active in the forming of the Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival in 1968 and didn't miss a festival in 51 years.

At the 50th celebration she was chosen to be the Honorary Grand Marshal. She was so pleased that the traditions they started 50 years ago are still used today, including the hex burning and bonfire, Optog parade and the princesses speeches on "what my national heritage means to me."

She chaired the entertainment committee and designed and prepared the programs for the first 25 years and later on alternated years with Maureen Sundstrom.

The many months that their group of Carol Obie and Nelly Norrman spent at the Astoria Public Library researching Midsummer in Scandinavia and interviewing many local families who immigrated here from the old country paid off. The festival continues to be authentic and has thrived!

Sadly, Shirley passed away on December 13, 2018. This will be the first festival in 52 years she will not attend.



Shirley Fransen-Tinner.



A memorial bench in honor of Shirley Fransen-Tinner near the Astoria Bridge.



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